(a) whether there is any proposal to connect the telephone exchange of Maheswaram Mandal headquarters in Ranga Reddi district Andhra Pradesh with Hyderabad exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) Maheswaram is a 50 line MAX-III in the Ibrahimpatnam unit zone. As per the policy of the department, Ibrahimpatnam which is unit Zone centre is to be connected to Hyderabad by Trunks, which has been done. Interdialling between Maheswaram & other MAX-III exchanges is available. Trunk facility from Maheswaram to Hyderabad and other exchanges is available through Shamshabad Trunk exchange.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of a PCO at Maredpalli

3. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a PCO at Maredpalli in Secunderabad Distt. of Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Eleven PCOs are already working at Maredpalli in Secunderabad District.

(b) The details of PCOs are as under :

Guaranteed PCOs	7
Departmental	3
Physically Handicaped	1
TOTAL .	11

(c) Does not arise.

New pension scheme for the widows of ex-servicemen

4. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced a new pension scheme for the widows of ex-servicemen ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) from which date the said scheme would come into effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Purchases made by Homoeopathic Pharmacopoea Laboratory, Ghaziabad

5. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of equipment including, the value etc., purchased by the Homeopathic Pharmacopoea Laboratory, Ghaziabad during the last three years, year-wise ; and

(b) whether audit of these purchases has been carried out ; if